public importance as required in Rule No. 18 of the Cochin Legislative Council Rules. The motion is therefore disallowed.

The next item is, the Hon'ble Member for Urakam raised a point of order whether the House is entitled to ask for any information as to whether there has been any correspondence between His Highness and the Diwan and my ruling is in the affirmative,(*Hear, hear*) that the House is entitled to ask whether there has been any correspondence between His Highness and the Diwan. But the House is not entitled to ask for the details of the correspondence, if the Government do not choose to disclose them.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Thank you, Sir.

Concluding Remarks by the President.

President.—Hon'ble Members of the Cochin Legislative Council,—We have now come to the end of our labour, and I trust that we will not be charged with vanity, if I say, that we may congratulate ourselves on having completely carried out the programme that we had before us.

We have passed two important legislative measures calculated to improve the economic condition of the people as also the fiscal condition of the State. We have also passed one or two important resolutions which are sure to have far-reaching effects on the social condition of the people. All these results could not have been achieved but for the spirit of responsible co-operation and the spirit of comradeship between the two sides of the House (*Hear, hear*) with which and the business-like manner in which the discussions were conducted by the Hon'ble Members. (*Hear, hear.*)

I wish to refer to one matter in particular. It is this. We received in all 206 questions from the Hon'ble Members for being answered at this meeting. Even though one half of the number of questions was received by our Secretary only just 12 days before the meeting began and could be placed in the hands of the Government only a couple of days after that, 90 per cent of them have been answered (*Hear, hear*). The answering of a question is not an easy task. It has to undergo a number of processes. Materials have to be gathered from the Heads of Departments, drafts of answers have to be framed by the Secretariat, they have to be checked by the Secretary, scrutinised by the Diwan and finally approved by His Highness the Maharaja. Then there is the printing. Kindly permit me to say that the Members on the official side, especially the Secretary to the Diwan, deserve credit for having answered such a large number of questions (*Hear, hear.*)

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Our own indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Mathew, also deserve to be complimented for his commendable promptitude and energy in the despatch of business of the Council. (*Hear, hear.*)

In conclusion, I have to thank you all once more from the bottom of my heart for the very kind words spoken by our veteran Deputy President on your behalf on the first day of this meeting and it is my humble hope that, with your co-operation and help, I have succeeded in maintaining unimpaired the purity of, what our Deputy President described as, 'the greatest Chair of Honour in the State',—a Chair which he himself has honoured and will continue to honour. The time has now come for us to part. The parting of friends is always a wrench. We deserve to be called a happy family and we have spent five happy days together.

I take leave of you for the present, wishing you all a pleasant return to your homes.

The House was adjourned at 1.30 p. m.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.

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